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**CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF JOHN J. HARDIN
OF LIVONIA, INDIANA, A CAPTAIN IN
COMPANY E, 23RD INDIANA INFANTRY
1861-1864**

**[Owned in the 1960s by Earl R. Boston
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Annapolis Md June 5th 1863
Miss A. M. Hardin

Dear Ann for fear
you have not heard from me yet I will
write a few lines to tell you where I
am. I wrote a letter to Pa the 26th of
May I hope he received it: if he did not
you will be very uneasy about me.
I will state as I did before. I was taken
prisoner on the 7th day of May near
Port Gibson Mississippi also 7 more
of our company boys we had quite
an interesting Skirmish for about half
hour when we were surrounded and
had to surrender our loss was one
killed and the rest of us taken prisoner
Eli B Stephenson was killed, the
enemy's loss was 2 killed and four
wounded and shot four of their horses
from under them one Lieutenant was
shot through the nose (literally close was it not)

I had a volley of fifteen shots at me but
all missed ~~missed~~ me. after I had surrendred
to them. this Lieut that was shot through
the nose came running up and said dont
take the damned Inn of a bitch kill
him shoot him dont take him prisoner
I began to think they were going to kill
me but they did not. Well they marched
us 18 miles in four hours to Fayette Missis.
and put us in jail so you see I have been
in jail they then took us to Jackson
Mississippi thence to Richmond Va and
there put in Libby Prison (hard treatment)
we then was taken to City Point Va
to our lines (we were all right then)
we are now at Annapolis Maryland
Since I wrote to Pa we have drawn our
clothing and two months pay. So the rebs
did not make much off of me if they did
take all I had and my new h.a.p. money
that is only borrowed I will pay them
back in their own coin. Man I am much
stronger union man than I was before



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was taken I never want any one today
any thing in favor of the Southern Con-
-federacy the Neech all deserve burning
hanging or something of the kind. I want
to see them whiped out and I am willing
to help do it. I will serve my time out
and three year more if necessary.

Enough of this subject,

Well Mandy I expect you have heard I
was killed before this time but it is
not so. I have no other doubt but they
think I am killed at the Regiment.
I expect Richard has written to you
and told you that I was killed or
taken prisoner, when you write to him
give him my best. and when you cant
hear from me and think I am dead and
want to hear from me just go over and
see my Mary she is always posted well in
fact I write to her first but you must not
think hard of that I think you had better
go over and see her and see if she has heard
from me (Migly she has not recd my

Letters. Mind if you go take this letter
with you be sure and go over the next
day after you get this letter if you dont
go I will hear it then I will quit writing to
you I will tell all the boys not to write
to you so you will not Mary if they
quit writing to you tell Pet I will write
to her next. Well Man I wish you
was down here at Annapolis it is a fine
place or City plenty girls here and no
men only soldiers the girls are all deers
or a large portion of them and besides
that they are all cross-eyed. would be good
looking if it was not for that.

I hear we are going to Columbus Ohio I hope
we may when you write direct as I tell
you. and the letter will follow me if I should
leave here I will close hoping to hear
from you as soon as you get this
I will close

Remaining brother John A. Hardin

Camp of the 25th Ind Regt March 30th 63

John Hardin Esqr

Dear father as I have a chance of sending a letter by Henry Martin I thought I would send a few lines to you to let you know that I am well and very well satisfied. I rec'd letter from Aaron Edward yesterday. I was much interested in reading his letter. I will acknowledge that I was much surprised to get such a good letter from him. I also rec'd a letter from Mandy the other day.

I have no news to write that will interest you we get no late papers therefore we have no late news. I would like you would send me a county paper once and a while as I am anxious to have the county news.

I will not write much this time you must therefore excuse me. I will close hoping to get some letters by Henry Martin

Your Son

J. J. Hardin

Camp of the 23rd Ind Vol
December 18th 1862

Theresa S. Hardin

Dear Boss I rec'd your
very welcome letter the other day and
was truly glad to hear from you and to
hear that you was all well. I am
happy to inform you that my health
is good although I have had bad
cold which I am being relieved of.

I don't know that I have any
news to write more than you know
your self. we are now camped 12 miles
south of Oxford Mississippi we
are camped in an old field fully
as loansome a place as in the peach
Orchard on the hill. I get so tired
laying round in camp that I some

time wish that I was at home. I
would much rather be marching when
it is good weather. I some time
go up to Henry Martin's tent and
quarrel with him to spend the day.
John Martin is as good looking as
ever I would not be surprised if
he wont want you or Mandy or Jane
for a wife when he comes home.
Richard is well and is a fine
looking young man and is one
of the best soldiers in the 23rd.
well the boys are all good soldiers
I rec'd a letter from James Rutherford
and will answer it in a day or
two. I will write one to Sallie Re
I have not heard from Ball for
some time will write to him
I guess they will have a fight

at Nash Ville soon I see
the papers state that Gen Bragg
is fortifying in a short distance
from there when you write
tell me when you hear from
him.

Well Bess when My Mary comes
over to see you you must make
her enjoy herself as though I was
there. Tell her all my bad
habits so she will know me
also how mean I am U. S.
Tell Mandy to write to me often
than she does. I have not rec'd
any letter from Kate Smith tell
her to be sure to write give her
a kiss for me and tell her I will
never forget her for her kindness
to me. (hear tears flow freely) tell

her the little squirrels will never
be forgotten. give Sarah my best
tell Ben to write to me

Well I suppose Aaron and Jane
Ben are going to school Kiss Ben
for me and call him sweet also
Olive and Kat-Clarinda

Well I will bring my letter to
a close tell every body and all the
girls that I am still alive and
well we have not rec^d any
money yet but hope we will
soon though I dont know as I
am in want of any thing. I will

close.

Love
your
sister
Clarinda

Ever your Brother

A. H. Hardy

all have and you
and that I am
all right on the
your situation
I would like to
see a stand for
that in writing to
me

Bless you must Kiss Miss Mary for me
when you see her and tell her I told
you to good bye

Memphis Tenn. January 26th 63
John Harvin Esqr

Dear father again
I will drop you a few lines to
let you know where I am. we
arrived here 4 days ago after a hard
and muddy march of two days.
I tell you that you could hardly
tell whether we was mud or
men the mud and water two feet
deep. but we washed and cleaned
ourselves the best we could we look
something like soldiers.
We have had very bad weather
for two days it is raining now
and has been all day. our clothing
is tolerably bad but we have
drawn a new suit and will
put them on in the morning
I guess we will be paid off to
morrow or next day. Should we

Well I hear a great deal of talk
about Indiana seceding and what
the people are going to do & and that
governor Westfall is going to call
the Indiana boys home. and
about the President Proclamation
and many other reports. I don't know
how true any of it is. so I will
apply to you for information in
general. I for one am not in favor
of the Proclamation but if it will
put the rebellion down I will
fully consent to it. anything in
the world that will restore peace
to our country.

Well I will close hoping to hear from
you soon. My health is very good
give my respects to all the friends
Ever your son John H. Havin
to Mr and Mrs Havin

I will not send any money home this time
I did not get ^{money} any the pay rolls was not
right in my case

be paid I will send this letter
by our chaplain Rogers he
will ~~come~~^{go} home to take the
money for the boys. I dont
know whether I will send any
or not as we will be paid for two
months. I dont know that I will
have any to spare or not I have
not had any money from the
government for 8 months.

I guess you have not heard from
me for some time as we have
had no chance of sending letter
till now. we have been all over
Donn and Mississippi down as
far as Yorkney Pa Ga Fla & Texas
this is a jaw breaking word but give
a the sound and you will make it.
I have not had any letters for so
long that I would take one as a
great treat. I dont think the mail
goes through very regular ^{or} else I
would surely hear from home.



DEATH TO TRAITORS.

Camp Noble
New Albany
July the 27 1861
Dear father

I am in C. N.
and in good health we are not marched in to service yet but will be on the 28th of this month we are all well satisfied we have got a very good captain one of the best drilled sergednts in the camp: There are about one thousand soldiers in Camp Noble under Colonel Anderson there is some doubt what the regiments will not be filled but I think no, Isaacs folks are all well I dont no but he will try the soldier life in a few days

I thought I would have
written before now but
we have bee fixing our tent
we have plenty to eat and
plenty to give to our friends
when they come to see us I
will tell you what we have

- 1st Beef and plenty of it
- 2nd Bacon some to sell
- 3rd Beef some of it spoils
- 4th Coffee some to sell
- 5th Rice plenty
- 6th Sugar not so plenty
- 7th Molasses not so plenty
- 8th Potatoes plenty of them
- 9th Dried apples plenty
- 10th Black berries sel bad for them
- 11th Onions
- 12th Pepper
- 13th Salt

Tin cups tin pans knives and
forks to eat out of

I will be at home in a few days I want you to go and get some shirting and have them mad for me and I will pay for them when I come out at least three have them finished by Tuesday or Wednesday get hickory or checked or what do you call it not white make them pleated bosoms and to be nice no more at present

John L. Hardin

Camp 23rd Regt.

January 9th /64

John Hardin Esqr

Dear father, again I write to you in good health. hope you are all well. I will be home in five or six weeks on a furlough. Our Company has all Reenlisted and say that they can not get along without me so I have consented to go with them. we will all be at home 30 or 40 days all veteran Volunteers get to go home in a body or Company. I think we will start ^{home} in a few weeks not to exceed three. You will no doubt be very much wounded in your feelings to hear of my Reenlisting. but it is all right. I will explain to you when I get home. The boys from our part have all enlisted and I cannot leave them when they request me to stay as an officer besides I will collect my Bounty \$402. The Co will not be reorganized til Capt Clark's time is out. I want Lt Berry.

BUENA VISTA.

M. W. FORD & Co., Cincinnati.



His reply to an invitation to surrender
at Buena Vista:

"GENERAL TAYLOR NEVER SURRENDERS."

Camp General Smith,
Paducah, Sept. the 24th 1861

Amanda M. Hardin

I take the present
opportunity of writing
you a few lines. I
am well - we are at

Paducah K. Y. we left

"GENERAL TAYLOR NEVER SURRENDERS." I. A. Lewis the 7th day
of Septem. I have written three
letters since we landed and have
receive two letters from home and
answered them but I understand
they stop at Cairo. I have a chance
of sending one to New Albany by
Mr. Davis. I have nothing very
interesting to write this time.
If you will read the ledger
you will see some of our
bravery of the 20th Nov. daily.
I sent a letter in one envelope
with seven letters in it. I am

one to Barn one to Smith one
to James Butherford one to
Andrew I have written so many
letters home that I have nothing
to write so I will close and
let Richard finish it no more
but remain your Brother

John F. Hardin

Camp Genl Smith

September 25

My Anasuta it
is with pleasure that I
have this opportunity of addressing
you a few lines. I wrote to
you once before but I don't know
whether you will ever receive
it or not. I am well
at this time. I hope you
will excuse the brevity
of my letter. I could write
a good deal of news but
I have not time.
I hope that you will
excuse me for not
writing sooner. Well
I will proceed to tell
you some of the news
there has been 3 men
shot within the last
week one was trying

scared a little boy with
a pistol and fainted. He
threwed his legs over
it and knocked it off
and shot the man
through the arm and
two other men was shot
with a musket on
Sunday they are both
dadd now well. I
must hang my letter
to a close excuse the
shameless of my letter and
bad writing and spelling
I write for I will be
glad to hear from you
so now more but remain
your friend

Richard M. Fox

St Louis Mo Aug 26th 1861
Miss Amanda M Gardin
I take my seat to pen you
a few lines. I am well and
well satisfied I am one mile
from the City of St Louis I
like the country much better
than I expected the health
is very good there are only four
in the hospital Richard has
just come out of it one of
the soldiers died on last sun-
day we could not expect
any better when there are so
many men together I would
like you could see the men
stationed in and about the City
there are eleven regiments and
one more expecting of Infantry
and one of Cavalry that is more
men than you ever saw I
expect. I understand there

was one man shot this morning
for going to sleep on guard the
third time he was tied and ten
guns loaded three of them was
loaded with balls and one other
was with paper and all shot at him
at once so they could not tell who
killed him. I was very sorry to hear
of it. I have just been on drill
I received my commission to day
as sergeant I have a good time drill-
ling the men I had the best section
in the company to day I am learning
very fast. give my love to John Smith & say
tell Belle to not say that her girl of Malton to
hard tell Bessie I will bring her some candy
when I come home I would like to be at home
a little while to see the folks and to eat
peaches but that is impossible I am far far far
away in an enemys land I may get back &
I may not but if not be pray for me we have not got
our guns yet we ought to have them I don't
think we are in much danger Tell Kate Smith &
all the girls I send my best love to them and
you must write soon may the time
all the folks specially come when we may stand
face to face and our country restored to peace
Direct your letter to the 22nd Regt in case of loss
no more at present
Belark John V. Hardin

Camp near Bolivar October 14th 1862.

Mr John and Judith A. Harding

Livonia Ind.

Dear father and mother

I received your communication of the 9th and 11th which gave me much pleasure to hear from you but was very ^{sorry} to that Ben and Aaron had been sick I am fearful you will lose your health as there is so much sickness in that part of the country. I am happy to inform you that my health is very good; this is a very healthy place. we have been marching for several days but have got in to camp again we were ordered to go to Grand Junction distance 20 miles we went from there to Leagrang Tenn. we then was ordered back to Bolivar it was a very hard and fatiguing march. I get most awful tired and get in the night about home when resting. I am well satisfied while in camp but put me on a march I would rather be at home. I think the times looks some better at this time as the rebels have been defeated in the fights of late they was badly whipped at Corinth and Iuka and Harris mill on the Hatchie River the engagement at Davis's Mill was a hard fight we did not get to take a part in it but was there soon after the fight was over. The 53rd Ind. was in the engagement and suffered no little they fought gallantly and gained laurels that will not be forgotten soon. John Montgomery was wounded in the

Shoulder but I think not dangerous he will
recover. I have not seen him yet but will go to
see him soon in the morning Henry Martin
has been to see him. I saw Will Callhart while
on the Luka march he looks well I could hardly
recognize him he looks so different to what he use to
look. I recd a letter from William Orr he is at
or was at Secoisville at the time he wrote he was
well perhaps you have heard from him as he was
so close many you have seen him. I have not
received any letter from the Major I guess he is
busy making those telling speeches that he has forgot
to write to me. I would like to be at home to write for
him and Arin. I want you to write and give me a
full detail of the Election I want you to tell Arin
to be sure and write to me. also give me the return
of the state ticket. I wrote Sam Wilson a letter but
have got no answer yet neither have I got any letter
from Theressa I guess she has forgotten to write as
Isaac Guthrie has got home tells her if she has time
to write me a few lines tell Mandy she is played out
she will know I am just talking. I will write to Bal
to morrow. I requested Mr J. G. Reed to write to you
as I was going on a march. you may have got his letter by
this time for wearing your patience I will close give Baus
folks my respects, tell Benny to hurry and get well.

write soon as I am ever anxious to hear from home
send me some pen points in
your next letter.

Ever yours John J. Hardin

Camp Shilo near
Pittsburg Landing April 5th
Mr John Hardin
Savannah Ind

Dear father again
I am priviledged to write to you
I wrote one letter just after
the battle I guess you have
recd it by this time. I have
nothing of much importance
to write. we have news here
this morning that Richmond
Va is enrg I dont know that
the report is true only hope
so also I learn that the great
gun boat Merrimac is
badly whipped and sank to the
bottom of the River. from what
I learn there was quite a siege
between the Merrimac and Monitor
the latter giving or throwing such

inflicted balls that she went
down beneath the waves. I
suppose you are posted in regard
to the war vessels. Nashville
We are now within a few miles
of Gen Beauregard and will
move forward in a few days.
I think we have got them com-
pletely surrounded. Gen Halleck is
now in the field he is at this
point with one hundred thousand
men well equipped and will to
meet the enemy at any time.
Gen Pope is between his army
and Memphis with a large army
of men. Gen Mitchell is between
him and Nashville with twenty
thousand men. I think if they
all move forward on to
Cornith Miss (where they are
at) they will get them all
without much fighting.

I believe I have written all
the news I know of I will
bring my letter. I forget to
tell you we will draw our new
Uniform in a few days and
we will get pay for four months
in a week or so I guess.
I will send you a dime or two
that is if I can have any chance
to send it home.

I was sorry to hear of the death
of Aunt Evelyn Ellis I suppose
she is dead I heard she died
with the consumption.

I sent some money to
Joseph Shanks in Clapton
to pay for my boots I would like
to know if he got it that is if
you can find out, well I
will close give my respects
to all your friends
yours
Wm. Hardin

Tell Ben and Billy I could
have captured them a little
gun if I had had any chance
of sending them home.

I suppose you got my
other letter I will say nothing
about the fight only that
I came out without getting
hurt. I wish you could
be on the battle field.
It looks like it would be
impossible for men to escape.
Every little bush is cut off
and every tree cut down.
Great big will holes shot
through them it is really
not so scary.

I get them
when fighting.

Sumner go on as of long

Camp of the 23rd April 1863

Dear Father and all the folks

from Red down to Benny (I guess there is
none below him) I received your letter
by Henry McMartin and was glad to hear from
you and to hear that you was all well. This
leaves me in good health. We are now in
a warm climate I don't know how I will
stand it but all is right so far. I like
the sunny clime much better than I
thought I would. I am almost a southern
man as far as the country is concerned.

I have no very particular news to write this
time: there is some excitement here about
running the blockade at Vicksburg. Six
of our transports run the blockade the
night of the 22 we lost one boat it was
sunk the rest went through without much
damage. The officers that belong to the
different boats would not run the block-
ade so they had to make details out
of the different Regts. well they did not

have to make details for the boys were
anxious to go and they volunteered their
services. Among the boys that went
was John B. Baldwin of our company.
he went as Engineer. he is all right on
the gun question I wish I had him for
a cousin or brother law. but don't tell
Mandy and res. I said this they will get
mad and I would not have them to get
out of him nor under no considerations
especially if they are as dangerous as the me
to be well to my subject I heard from
John B. Baldwin this evening he went the
trip without getting hurt. He run a narrow
rick only ten cannon balls went through
his boat and ten thousand Riff balls.
You have not forgotten him he is the one
that was at home with me last summer
and was at our house.

I forget to tell you where we are at. we
are now at Millikins bend Louisiana 20
miles above Nicksburg we have been
here about two weeks. we are now under

marching orders we will leave for
Youngs Point tomorrow that is just above
Vicksburg. I am led to believe that we
will have a fight at Vicksburg before a
month it is bound to fall and a dead end
it will be to the Rebs. I dont say we will
get in the fight (that is our Regt) but some
Regiments will be in the fight. Some think
the rebs are evacuating but I dont know how
true it is. one thing they have moved a
great many of their guns in the last week.
Now for the negro question there is being
several Regt raised here of the blacks I
dont know how they will do but if they
will be any help to us I say put them
in the field. and put white officers
over them and make them come up to
the scratch. I am aware of the fact that
every negro that is put in the field will
save one white man from many many
a hard days march. I am in favor of it
for one reason them being put in the
field will save some of my brothers or

Prevented from going to war, if it can
be avoided I don't want to see any of my
countrymen in the war - I would rather
serve my three year out and then reindist
you may think I am talking foolish now, but
I think I know what I am talking about I
have experienced many things since I have
been in the service. there are some of my
reasons for wanting the negro put in before
us in a battle. I have not heard from
F. A. Graves neither do I want to for I think
he has acted rather reserved towards me
he may have thought I was not high enough
up in the world to be noticed, but all right
I don't know why Baw did not write a letter
to me by Henry Martin I got the money he sent
I will close my letter I do not wish to wear your
patience. I did not confine myself to the democrats
when I was writing to J. W. Hays I don't like the way
either party is doing I think the democrats as bad
if not worse than any of them I would like to see them
as a unit while this great struggle is going on
I don't want to see them holding meetings and
raising the political question. I am not a poli-
tician but this time I am only for the union and
nothing else. I know there are some that belong to the
abolitionist that deserve hanging also the democrat
party and if I had the power I would hang 50
of each a month I would make them come up to the
work with some of us. John J. Heardin

Camp of the 23^d Ind Infantry Vol
in the field December 13th 1862

John Hardin Esqr

Dear father as I have a chance of
sending a letter as far as New Albany I thought
I would direct one to you not knowing whether
you will get it or not I will write any how.
We are now 12 miles south of Oxford Mississippi
we will in all probability leave here for some
other point in a few days. Grenada Mississippi
is the point in view we will probably stop at Coffee
Ville (18 miles from here) for a few days we have been
marching ever since the 22nd of November and will
be marching for the next month if Old Price
dont stop us down in the Mississ Valley

My health continues very good I am getting fat as a
hog. Tell Pless I rec^d her letter was glad to hear
from her but told her I am much obliged to her I have
bogs head any time I want it - we kill our own meat
when we get out of sow belly we have plenty fresh
meat and hard bread coffee sugar &c Beans &c
Well I dont want to write very much this time
if you dont write among you at home I will
quit writing I rec^d a letter from James Routhen
I will answer it in a few days. I hear
John Montgomery had got home again give
them my respects I will close hoping to
hear from you soon and often

John J. Hardin

Camp near Oxford Mississippi
December 6th 1862

John Hardin Esq
Livonia Ind

Dear father as we have camped
for a few hours I thought I would write a
few lines to let you know where I am. we
have been marching 8 days and are now at
Oxford Miss we will not stay here very
long as our destination is Grenada Mississippi
we will start tomorrow if the order is not
countermanded it will take us 5 days to
march there. The secession are retreating Southward
and that fact they left their fortified lines at
Bolly Springs and Jolly Blanche River which
now are strong they seeing that General Sherman
with his force from Memphis was about to
cut them off so they evacuated without a fight
our troops are now in possession of Grenada
after that we will have to fight for every foot
of ground we get. we will have an engagement
at Jackson Mississippi. There is there fortifying
Our force is 125000 well equipped and moving
forward there has been about 500 of the secession
taken prisoners since we crossed the Jolly Blanche
we are in good spirit the health is good the weather
very cold I will close for this time hoping
to hear from you soon

John Hardin

Camp of the 28th Ind.
Leavenworth Nov 28 to 1862

John Hardin Esq
Leavenworth Ind

Dear father: I am writing to
you this morning to drop you a few lines, as we are going
to leave here at 8 A.M. we have marching orders
with two days rations in our haversacks
it is thought we will go to Holly Springs
80 miles from here. I need hardly tell
you I will answer it when I get in camp again.
I was very sorry to hear of Bal being sick.

I will close hoping to hear from
you after I am well.

Yours Truly A. S. Hardin

Camp Morton August 13
Miss Maundy McHardin

Dear Sister Maan

I feel as though I had slighted you
by not writing to you though I had
not forgotten you. I got to Indianapolis
safe and sound I reported and
am all right I am well

Maundy we had a good time on
the Rears we left Campbellburg
10 a.m. and arrived at Indianapolis
6 1/2 P.M. same day we put up at
the Tavern stayed all night cost
us 60 cts as per we are in Camp
Morton the camp is good enough
but we don't get any thing to eat
but Saw Belly and Bread few potatoes
sugar & coffee very poor fair indeed
we fair worse here than at Vicksburg
Well Maundy I hear no talk of
exchange we will in all probability

Stay here for two months at least
the month anyhow I wish I could
arrange it so you could come up to
see me and give you a chance to learn
the ways of the world I have sent
for my descriptive Roll (to Recd)
so I can get my pay if I get it
in time I will send for you
and you can bring any one you
choose to bring (guess at the Rest)
Well Mandy Gosh Davis often
talks about you and Less I dont
know but he has fallen in love with
one of you but he dont say so he
says he dont know you apart so
I cant tell which of the two it is that
he is smitten after but tell Less I will
do all I can for her as you claim I
enough of that But when you see my
Mary kiss her and tell her it is for me
you will maby go to Claysville to
the association if you do you must
go home with her for dinner.

I will not have those photographs
taken yet awhile but will before
I go away from here. I would come
home before I go away but I don't
like to run off as I would lay my-
self liable. You would not have me
do that would you.

I will close my letter as I want
to write you to Bal. I believe they
are at Winchester or was there at
last account. Give my best love to
all the folks. and to my Mary when
you see her. When you write
Direct to Leg. K 1st P. P.

Camp Morton Indianapolis

I Remain your Brother

John A. Hardin

Camp of the 23rd Ind Regt March 20th 63

Mandy M. Martin

Well Man I recd your letter the other day and I dont think it necessary to tete you that I was glad to hear from you that you knew without me telling you. I have a good chance of sending you a letter by Henry Martin so I will write you a short letter. I have no news to write that will interest you only that I am well of course that will be interesting. Richard is well though I guess he tete you that in his letter. Mandy Richard is all right side up with case.

Well Mandy it does me so much good to get a letter from you. for this reason you tell me every thing that goes on about the home and that is what I like to hear you know I was always a house dog anyhow.

I dont know what is the reason Rees dont write to me I will think hard of her if she dont write to me soon.

I recd a letter from Mariah Alexander I wish you could read it. She wants me to write to her but I wont do it. She says Leiza Leclier was turned out of the church and then (says you know for what) I dont know whether I do or not unless it was for marrying Dr Lee. I dont care about writing to Maria therefore I wont do it. I can write to me for better sweeten and better looking. Well Mandy I dont know what to write to you if I could write as good a letter as you I could write a long letter. I would like to be at home awhile so we could go to pray to church I would like to see the folks about there. I had not herd about Bill Hill being dead before. I have written a letter to Benning Hollowece. Mandy tell Rees if she gets a good chance at that fellow you spoke about tell her to cling to him if he is a good fellow if he is not tell her to let him go and not have anything to do with him. Rees is a good fellow and deserves a good man. and she shall have a good man if she dont marry before I come home.

Tell Mandy if you want to send any little thing
to me Henry will bring it for me
I will close give my best to all the folks
give Kate Smith my best and all the rest you
and Rees receive a portion you selves
when you see my Mary Kiss her for me and
call her sweet. I will close hoping to
get enough letters by Henry to keep me reading
a month of Sundays. Give Benny my love
also Joney. I will close. I don't know when
you will hear from me again maby
it will be sometime and maby soon.
Your brother John J. Heaton Cordly

Paducah Ky Sept 12th

Dear Friend I seat myself
to write you a few lines to let
to let you know how and where
we are. we are all tolerable well
at present I am in better health
than I have been since we
have been in camp. we are at Paducah
and are looking for the enemy. there
is no telling where the enemy
will be here we sleep with our
equipments on and our guns in
our arms.

We started from St Louis on
Saturday the 7 and we was on the
boat untill Tuesday the 10 which makes
three days and nights without being
off the boat I have taken a
sick spell since I began to
write but I don't think it
will amount to anything.

I have a grand idea
or could write but I don't feel
much like writing and John
will ~~it~~ write some and we will
send it together

I hope you will excuse me
for not writing sooner I did
not have time to come to see
you when I was at home & it
would have given me pleasure
to have done so

I will close as John
is ready to write record
his writing and spelling
and no more at

present but remains
your friend til death

R. P. Joy

Mrs J M Joy

I will be glad to hear from

you

Paducha K. Y. Sep. 12th 1861

Miss Manon

I am well at present and hope these few words will find you all well. I have written three times but no answer can I get from home. We are in K Y 20 miles above Cairo at Paducha we are among the enemy we will have a fight soon we was called out three times last night but false alarm I sleep with my gun in my arms every night expecting a battle. it rained very hard yesterday we was in a low place and the water was all over the ground it was pretty bad on us but we are doing very well today we left St Louis on Saturday we had a pleasant trip we was on the boat four days

ne more as present

write soon Paduchà Ky //

2023 2nd reg in care of Cap Blak

J J Hardin

St Louis August 18/61

Dear father I left New
alban for Indianapolis
left Indianapolis for St
Louis I am now in St Louis
I am well and satisfied
the City is union by a large
majority but some secesors
about they are trying to
poison the men in camp
by selling apples & I always had
some sympathy for them til
now but the time has come
that I could burn every one
of them they poisoned one man
by selling tomatoes but he got
well one man came in here
to sell pyes and cakes but they
was examined by the doctor and
found to be much poison we are
very careful what we eat I will
not write a very long letter this
time tell Bill Finch that Overbey is well
and well satisfied we have been
eating hard cakes all day but will get
eg tomorrow we need not
write this time I will send
this to you all by a man &
he will mail it

John F. Hardin

Camp Shiloh near
Pittsburg Landing, Miss.
Miss Laura S. Harding }
Lincoln, Ind. }

Dear respected
Mother from home and family
it was from home though
there was no signature
at I am well and well satisfied
We have just had a hard
fight at this landing the first
commenced on the 4th
and ended this over thirty
hours. Both sides the
went in on Monday morning
and fought hard all day
killing fifty killed and
wounded and missing men
can see the result in the
paper which is correct

Refr: you have no idea
how a person feels when
they go in to battle

The cannon balls flying
in all directions the shells
bursting over our heads you
just better believe we learned
to dodge and lay close to
the ground. The secesh shells
as for two hours it was a
time that every moment seemed
the last. Our Lt Colonel had
his horse shot from under
him.

The next was some heavily
charged on us we soon routed
them with a loss of five men.
Then we met the secesh
infantry we soon routed
them with no loss.

Then they commenced
shelling us the order was
to lay down that morning.

was executed in quick
time we lay there for
one hour then the order
was to fix Bayonets to
charge the battery the secret
hearing the command
spike their gun and let
out on the double quick
The firing soon ceased
the victory being ours

Reps I went over the
battle field afterwards it
was a terrible sight to be
seen to see so many
dead bodies laying over the
field

The next day I went
to see them bury the dead
that was dreadful to see the
poor soldier just thrown
in a ditch and covered over
without any box that is the
way the secret was buried

The union men were
buried in a different way
but not much better.

Well I have given you a
short history of the battle
I will close. I have
nothing more to write that
will interest you so I will
close.

Yours as ever,

John H. H. H.

I went in to battle but
I don't want to go in
any more. Not that I am
a coward but the scotch
are too careless, they would just
as soon kill a fellow as
not.

There is no use talking the
scotch will fight and
fight hard to

on the road to Corinth
Mr John Harding May the 8th 1862
Livingstonia La.

Dear father I take my
seat to write you a few lines in
haste as I have a chance to send
it to New Albany by hand we
are moving slowly in large force
it is supposed that the secesh
are pretty strong at that Point
let them be as strong as they
may we will rout them.
This fight will be principally
an Artillery one: we (the union
side) have 12,000 pieces 12 and 24
pounder besides siege and mortar
guns and 166,000 good men
I will have to bring my note
to a close tell Ben to not
give in any of my money matters
I have never heard from Dams

Wibrows folks since I have
been in the service and it
is now ten months to day
give my respect to all the
folks wait soon
direct to the 23^d Regiment
Ind Volunteers Ten & Five

I remain yours as ever

John F. Hardin

Fort Heiman March 4th 1863
Miss Amanda M. Hardin
Livonia Ind.

Dear Mandy

This fine morning finds me very unwell
I have a very bad cold caused by exposure
when landing at this point we had to wade
water to land our provisions. Though I will
be well in a day or so you need not
be uneasy about me I am all right

Mandy I recd your very
kind letter of the 21st and was glad to
hear from you and that you was well

we are now under marching
orders and will leave in a day or two.
I think we will go to Florence Alabama
then some where else I do not know
where may be to Mobile

Mandy you said you recd
that box that Richard sent to you do
you think it looks like he did before
he left I do not think he does.

Mandy dont you think I look better

than I need to or have you send
my picture if you want to see
me and a true picture go up
to see Miss Mary I sent her the
best looking picture I ever had taken
~~It~~ sent it by Daniel Brooks the
first of February she has read
it and thinks it is very true
of course she thinks it good looking
Mandy I only weigh 100 lbs would
you not like to see me Mandy.
you know I cant be very bad
sick

Well I wish I had been
with you at Hardinsburg I would like
to have seen the girls of that place
especially Miss Ellis I think her a
pretty girl and a smart one so I sent
her my picture and she said she
kissed it six times before she
got from the post office
she must think a right smart of
me dont she Mandy.

Mandy I think more of Miss —

than any of them

I suppose Dan got the money I sent him you said something about it I wrote a letter to J. I. Mabry I guess he has recd it by this time

We have just recd orders to get ready to go on our march so I will have to close my letter I will write to you after we get in our next camp or after our fight you ~~to~~ you was a fraid to hear from a battle for fear I was in it Mandy you surely dont want to see me returning home without being in a fight do you I never want to come home without being in a fight

I will close you must write soon direct your letter to Fort Henry Tenn give my respects to all the folks Tell John Smith I will capture a Negro Woman and send it to him give him my respects yours as ever

John I Hardin

Black River Mills

November 13th 1869

John Hardin Esq.

Dear father I read your letter last evening and was truly glad to hear from you as it is seldom I get a letter from home. I am well and well satisfied. I will not write but few lines this time as Jacob Case of our log is going home and will start in a few minutes. I will send by him if you see him make your acquaintance with him he is all right and a good friend. I have no news to write. I would like to hear from you often that is if you write as good and as long a letter every time as you did the last. my letter will be short and no news in it. I only write that you may know that I am well. I will write to you soon again give my best love to all the family. I will be at home in 8 months.

I Remain Yours Son John O. Hardin
to John & July A. Hardin



Paducah Ky
Camp Smith Dec 1861

John Hardin Esq

Dear father

I recei your very Kind Letter
of the 29th inst was glad to hear
from you all and that you
was all well. I now take pleasure
in replying to it though I dont
agree to interest you in the attempt
for fear I make a failure. I can
say that I am well and very he-
arty I am getting fat I weigh

153 lbs we have plenty to eat and that that is good to the health of the regt is idly only: the measles are in the brigade they will go through the whole army without a doubt. We have not had any fighting to do yet neither do I believe we will while we remain at this point there are no soldiers closer than 20 or 30 miles of us I suppose there are some at Columbus Ky but they will not come to visit us if they should we will give them a warm reception. You stated that Cravens & Jeffers made speeches in solemn nothing would have given me more pleasure than to have heard the Hon gentleman proclaimed aloud their union sentiments I wrote a letter to the Major asking him to visit our camp I would like to have him make a speech in our camp you stated that Bain had an idea of



paying me a visit that suits
me that's to my hand tell him
to be sure and come and spend a
week with me tell him to buy
up some cakes and a can of peaches
or to butter a lb or two any thing that
will be a rarity tell him to be
sure and come if he does let Martin
folks know it so they can send any-
thing they want to send to the boys also
let Haves folks know it too so they
can send something to Richard tell
them what you are going to send so they
will know. we dont need any clothing
niles a pair of socks we have just recei-
ved clothing to day overcoats pants shirts
drawers shoes caps and socks but
the latter not very good we will get
our money next week I guess. then
we will have everything we need. you
stated that Isaac was going to move
out but did not state where he was
going to move I dont know how

he will get along in the country I
guess it is tolerably hard times there
Tell the folks to write to me for I
cant write to them all I average a letter
every day then I dont write as often as I
wish we have so much drilling to do
that it takes all our time. I have been
promoted to first sergeant in our company
I like drilling very well we have got
a good General. I will close my
uninteresting letter you must excuse
my writing I just received your letter
and read it then commenced writing and
write in a hurry. be sure and make
Bang come and come at an early
date I cant tell how long we will
stay here after we leave it will be
nearly impossible to hear from us
tell him I have got ten dollars if he
will come he can have five of it
and if we draw our money he can have
more it will be the cheapest to come
by water the boat leaves New Albany
every Friday morning at present J. J. Hardin.

Camp Smith Paducah Ky

John Hardin }
Tennessee Ind }

Dear father I received your letter of the 15th which was reciev'd with much pleasure I was glad to hear you was all well. I now try to write a few lines in answer to it though nothing nothing of much importance I was sorry to hear of Ban being disappointed in coming to Paducah I think you got scared before you was hurt it is all a mistake that they will not let any one visit the army I thought you was better posted than that. all you have to do is to go to the wharf boat and get a pass then you can go where you please they may examine your letters but wah of that get excited like old Bill Mible why you ought to have more wit than that I was very much disappointed I had been looking for Ban every boat you stated that you sent some mittens and socks to me I have never herd of them neither do I expect to if you sent them to New Albany if you want to send any any thing to me direct it to Paducah as reg in care of of Col sanderson with my name on it. You can give my respect to Mrs Davison for sending those mittens if I did not get them you wanted to know if you could come down I would like very much for you to come but on one account you had better not that is you would be exposed in the camp to the cold weather it would prob'ly give you cold and cause you to have a spell of sickness so you had better let Ban come we will take up winter quarters here you will have a chance to come I would like for him to come pretty soon on account of the weather you will be asked some questions at the landing but not

very serious. I want you to bring me some things when
you come for just some butter some good cakes some apples
some pears a can of peaches any thing you want to send
we have plenty to eat such as it is such as bacon pork beef
beans potatoes rice corns melons when we by them sugar
and coffee &c I want you to write soon and tell me when
you are coming and good men asked me any of the
Livonia folk what to do. I don't know when we will
get our next payment some say next week but we can't
tell for certain when but shortly. You stated that W. H. English
has said peace would be made by Christmas I think that
is too soon if he will say by the first of May he
will come close to it. I think we will all be at home
in spring besides we will come without being in
a fight if that is the case I don't know but I will go
in to the regular service. I understand that the 23rd
has got a very bad name by some trifling scamp's lying
I will tell you how it all started we had marching orders
we was ordered to take three days rations with us in a
little sack that would hold about enough for one day's ration
so we did the best we could till the last day when our provisions
gave out when 20 miles from camp and ~~at~~ the boys all
hungry ^{let sanderson} ~~we~~ went to an old farmer and told him we
must have something to eat and told him to make his bill he
said he would not have anything for it to go and take what we want
so we killed some hogs and had a good dinner then went to
camp just behind us over as I think is in the region they still every
thing they could find so we have got the name of thieves I will close
my interesting letter tell ban to come as quick as he can
before it gets cold bring me a blanket one fine shirt a new one with as
soon as you get this and tell when ban is coming I will close
by saying I am in good health I weigh 155 lbs

John J. Hardin

Camp of the 23rd Regt Ind Vol

January 30th 1862

Theressa S. Hardin

Dear Pess your kind favor of the 15th is at hand and a welcome visitor to. it being the first letter I have had for sometime I am glad to hear that you are ^{all} well I hope you will remain so. My health is good never was better. I am fat as a hog and will do to kill by the time the secesh gets me. well Pess I have no news to write only that I am glad we have got out of the Mississippi wilderness. we are now encamped near Memphis Tenn it seems almost like home after being out so long. our Regt has been marching ever since the 27th day of November I think we ought to have some rest it is thought by some that we will get to stay here for some time I hope we will. Well Pess I told you that I had no news to write but I have

John McPheters of Tennessee
is dead. I suppose you did not
know it.

I rec'd a letter from Andy
Blalock the other day he was
in the fight at or near Jackson
Tenn. He was wounded in the
arm but is getting well
Your Isaac was in the fight
and came out all right
John Drinkle & Milt & Ernie
was well.

I will close give my best
to all inquiring friends
You said you was going to
kiss My Mary for me. you can
do more than that you may hug
her for me as she would never
let me she will in all probability
let you if you will do it nicely
dont you tell her this
give Kate Smith my best
Kisses you say that on arriving

is played out if that be so I
know you are in a bad fix
for you are nearly dead to
marry (dont you think so)
I have not heard from Bal
for a long time when you
write to him tell him to
stay in the hospital if
he can get to stay, tell him
I have writt to him but
get no answer.

Tell Mandy to write to me
- I will close hoping to
hear from you soon
Ever and truly Affectionate
Brother

J. J. Hardin

you will see that I have
been writing in a hurry

Vicksburg Miss Oct 31/63
John Hardin Esqr

Dear father I inclose
ten dollars to you. we have been payed
for two months. I write to you that
I would send you a few cts. to help
you out; you need not keep any account
of it, as I give it to you.

I have nothing new to write this
time as I write to you this week or
to Mandy. I get very few letters from
home would be pleased to hear from
you often.

I have heard the result of the Election.
Saw it in New Albany Ledger. Cuthaw
is elected by over 5 to 1 majority but he
dont suit me. by a big Majority.

I am well and well satisfied think
we will whip the Rebs some times give
all the family my love. Especially Benny
and Jerry.

The weather is some cooler than has been for
last two days we have had a very heavy rain. I have just
eat my supper guess what I had: Beef; sow belly; fried Ham
coffee &c. and plenty of it.

I think we will stay here for some time. the indications
are that way. do write often you son John Hardin
to John & Lucy A Hardin. Francis, Benny, Mandy, Aaron

Vicksburg Miss Oct 3-1863

Dear Mandy and
folks at home I have just
heard the melancholy news
that Ballard was killed so
saw it in the new Albany
Ledger that Ballard Hardin
Lee A Hospital Nurse was
killed it is correct news I
have had fears that he would
be killed Poor Bal killed
far away from home and
away from friends no
=her sister or brother to shed
a tear over him no friends to
put his body away perhaps
his bones will be bleached by
the rays of the sunny South

he no doubt was left a corpse
in the hands of the Rebels
if so he is incased for

Oh I do hope he got my letter
~~that~~ I wrote to him before
he was killed I knew it
reached him up for I wrote
him a good letter but he is
now numbered with the dead
I am proud that we have two
consolations that is he died a
brave soldier & a christian
I know he was a good soldier
and a better boy never walked
on ground. Oh I do wish
I had been with him on the
battle field but he was far far
away from his dear friends
I cant write more I am
only hereby well
your brother S. J. Gardin

Camp 23rd Ind Regt.

December 20th 1863

Miss Alm Gardin,
Livonia Ind.

Dear Sister. Again I am permitted to address you. I received your very kind favor of the 29th November was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was enjoying reasonable health. I was much grieved to hear that my Benny had been sick. Hope he will get well soon. was sorry to hear that Edward had been sick he is no doubt well by this time. My health is very good indeed I weigh 158 lbs this evening that is sufficient for you to know that I am in good health. Although we are subject to bad colds at any time as the weather is so changeable one day it is very warm the next day the ground frozen. you see at once that we are more apt to take cold than we would be if it was warm or cold all the time. I like the climate as a general thing very well. I believe it agrees

with me very well. I was ageing to say that I
am much better looking than I was. but I fear you
will laugh at me for making such bold expressions
but I will let it go as I have written if you wish to
laugh at me all right. But how is Kate Smith is she
well give her my love and a kiss tell her I sent it to her
I would like to know where Pess is I never can hear
from her is she at Campbellburg yet if so let me
know and I will write her a good letter I think
she ought to have written to me before this time. And
by the by Mandy you dont do that very little better
if only I dont think you would write at all if you
was not ashamed to not write. and when you do write
it is only three lines and a half. dont give me any
news no not even as to whether you are going to get
married or not. I like big letters tell me how many
chickens you have got how many eggs you sell how
many hogs you are feeding how many milk
cows you have and how much butter you make
and if it is good. if you are not a judge send some
down to me I will tell you. I could tell you
of a hundred things to write about I will leave
it with you if you want to write do so. yes you
can tell me if you have bought any new shoes lately
and how you made it. How is Jim Reuther and
folks and all the relation. but I must turn my
attention to something else and I dont know
what it will be unless I will tell you that I was



at camp meeting to day (this is Sunday night) ha it
was in a wided house or cock Phanty in Co.
C. Quarters we have camp meetings often I mean
meeting in camp. Our Chaplain delivers a sermon
as often as he can he is quite a good man he
thinks much of me would get up at the hour
of Midnight to see me if it was necessary.

I have no news of interest to write you all is quiet
on Big Black River Miss no fighting a few
reds in and about the River but they light out
when they see our troops advancing. I have seen
the President proclamation but have not studied it
it enough to give a decision but some friends
I like very well and others not so well cannot
mention any of the partienters points.

What do you think of the war by this time
I think rebellion is tottering on every side
I don't think the war will last over the year
longer and if the people of the south had the
say so the war would stop in 48 hours they
are convinced that they are wrong and are willing
to submit to any thing. (But enough of this)
John Le Martin says to tell you that you are
much better looking than he thought you
was he says he is going to have you he is
anxious to be my B. lawd. I wish you to visit
my Mary as often as you can and kiss her for me
I mean from her once and a while.

I will have to bring my letter to a close
very soon as it is late at night - I will look
for you to write to me soon. I expect I will
look in on you. Give my best love to all the
folks tell Rose to write to me all the boys
of your acquaintance are well. Dr. McPherson
is well, was down to see me to night. The
subject I had like to say often that is there is great
excitement at present about the veteran
volunteers that is the old troops re-enlisting, several
of our Regt has enlisted for three years longer
but I have no idea of enlisting whatever - I
will return home as soon as my unexpired
time is out and that will not be long. I thought
I would tell you my intentions lest you would
be uneasy. Well as I have to get up very early
in the morning I will close I have to get breakfast
for my mother our cook is gone you know I
was telling you about her in my last letter
Her name was Harriet she let out so I have
to cook in the morning as it is my time
I would like to write 25 pages I fear it would
excite your curiosity so I will quit any
how Hoping to hear from you soon
please excuse my short and uninteresting letter
Your Brother John J. Hardin
Ordeley Co E 23rd
Cnd Regt -

Camp 23rd Regt:-

January 9th /64

John Hardin Esqr

Dear father again I write to you in good health. hope you are all well. I will be home in five or six weeks on a furlough. Our Company have all Re-enlisted and say that they can not get along without me so I have consented to go with them. we will all be at home 30 or 40 days all veteran Volunteers get to go home in a body or Company. I think we will start in ^{three} a few weeks not to exceed three. You will no doubt be very much wounded in your feelings to hear of my Re-enlisting. but it is all right I will explain to you when I get home. The boys from our part have all enlisted and I cannot leave them when they request me to stay as an Officer besides I will collect my Bounty \$402 The Co will not be reorganized til Capt Clark's time is out. I want Let Berry

to stay as Capt of the Co. I don't want to have any responsibility on me. I will be 1st Lieut and that is as good a position as I want.

The officers of the Regt offered \$500 to the first Co that would enlist. ours was the first. we will get the money the first pay day it will be \$5 to the man.

I have been studying the matter over as to the war. I don't think it will last 12 months. the confederacy is cut in two the army is tired and are deserting by thousands they say they are badly whipped and that they can't hold out much longer. I think hostilities will cease between the two armies in six months from now and that will be a token for a settlement.

Maj. Genl M^r Pherson made a speech on the 1st Inst he said we would not have another fight in this part of the country he said peace would be proclaimed soon. I think his argument is good. (but his speech did not influence me in enlisting) (the boys of the Co is all that made me go) (but I have written enough on this subject) If you know of any one going soldiering

tell them to wait till we get home
and go with us our log will be there
to recruit-full. I will do better by them
than they can do elsewhere.

We have no news down here all is quiet
on the River. the weather is totally cold
and has been for more than a week the
ground is frozen. some ice on the water
where it stands in ponds. it will be
warm in a few days the weather is
very changeable. we have good comfortable
quarters chimneys to every tent. and
but little duty for the boys to do

I wrote a letter to Ban one to Press
on New years day. I write to you often
but get no letters in return (but few)
We have been making out pay rolls
I guess we will get our money before
we come home at least I would like to have
it. we will get our old Bessie \$100 before
we come. I will let you have a few
dollars when I come. Tell Maundy she
will have to get me a dinner on a certain
occasion but she must not say any
thing about it. she may buy a good Turkey
and have it ready. V V V V V V V V V V.

I dont want you to pay any Tax for
me I have no right to pay it but will
settle it when I get home

I will close my letter you need
not write till you hear from me
again

John A. Hardin
To
All the family

-entry yet I am going to stay till the rebellion is put down let it be long or short. I would rather go as to see any of my relations enlist. What do you think my Mary will say to me. I have written to her I will be at home on furlough in February our Regt will be at home we will stay thirty or forty days. I will be at home one month. You may suppose what I will do when I get home. Miss Mary and I are going to get married that is if she is willing to have a husband in the army, which I have no reason to think she would object. You can make such arrangements as to not look suspicious. I don't want any one to know this till I get home. it may be the last of February before I get home. I want you to go over and see my Mary as soon as you get this. when you go tell her what I have written to you. you can consult each other as to what arrangement to make. I will write to her again to night my other letters may have got mis placed if any thing should happen that we would not get started I will write as soon as I

of such facts. I see nothing to the contrary
at present.

I thought your letter such a good
one just the kind of a letter I like to get
I always like to hear about home
affairs. I would like some of that good
butter you spoke about. But I will
soon be there to eat with you.

I am going to bring a fellow home with
me for you his name is Leong a
cousin to our George he is a good
looking man. I think you will like
his looks. I have no more news to
write to you. Give my love to
all the family. go over and tell
Cousin John Smith I am going to
see him when I get home and
will stay two days. But I must
close don't write to me till you
hear from me.

Your Brother C. O. Cardin
N.B. I get your new dress and make
it and I will pay for it when I
get there. Now handy Keep this to
your self tell you see me
J Cardin

Vicksburg Miss. October 28th 1863

Miss A. M. Hardin

Dear sister Handy I recd your very welcome favor of the 13th and 25th was truly glad to hear from you as it was the first time I had heard from home since I have been back to the Regt. I had almost come to the conclusion that you had quit writing to me, but one came to me at last. Handy I am ever anxious to hear from you. I write often supposing you want to hear from me, I dont think you get my letter or you would surely answer them.

I have no news of interest. to write to you this time I am well and well satisfied. We are encamped in 12 miles from the City of Vicksburg. I wish you could be here to see the surrounding Country. I think it is the hillst place I ever saw. There is hardly level ground enough to sit a house. hills and deep ravines for miles from the City.

Our Regiment has not been payed off yet but some talk of it being payed in a week or two. I am very anxious to get my money. I am already broke but that is nothing for a soldier to be out of money. I had 25 cts and invested it in smoking tobacco, so you see that I still smoke a pipe. you must not think it out of the way to smoke for we must have something to pass time away. all soldier smoke Pipe.

I had heard of Dr Keleo death it was a sad accident -
the Dr will be missed, as a doctor and as a citizen. he was
a good friend of mine, and was hurt when I heard of his
death (he was a good friend to the soldiers)

You have not heard that we are going to send Richards
remains home, our Chaplain is going to take him
and will start about the 5th of next month. will
get there about the 20th of November it will cost about
\$30 he will be sent in a Metallic Coffin. you
will hear when he gets there.

I wish I was at home I would go and get Ball
and take him home; it does look so hard to see
a soldier buried so far from his home! and may be
the rebs dance over his grave; Oh (Gandy they are to
mean to live; I wish I could burn every one of them;
I would ask how can any one sympathize with
the rebs Oh they are so mean and barbarous!

The health of our troops is very good never was better we
only have two or three in the Regimental Hospital
all the bad cases have been sent North; there is a few
cases of Small Pox here but don't think it will spread
they are in a separate Hospital out side of the
fortifications. one of our Officers Lt Col from
New Albany has the Small Pox, he was sent to the
Hospital as soon as it was known to be the Small Pox
I don't think there will be much sickness here this
winter. I was sorry to hear of Pop Gordon being so
ill. I hope she will recover soon,

I have written to Ben but have not rec'd any answer
but am looking anxiously for an answer.

Meandy John Martin says he is a going to have you
when he gets home he says you are so much better
looking than when he went away. he told me to
write and tell you what he said and for you to
not get married till he gets back. I call him brother
you say the fair did not amount to much. I wish
I had been there: was Sallie Logan there. I saw
Frank Logan as I went to New Albany he said
and Morris would be at the fair. I heard Frank Stewart
was at the fair gallanting you around I guess
you thought it was a good fair because Frank
was with you.

I rec'd a letter from my Mary last week she was
well and as pretty as ever.

Meandy I only have 8 months to serve then I will
be with you again. we will stay here for some
time maby till spring: there was some talk that
we would go to Rosecrans but I guess we will
stay here. The weather is fair and warm the
nights are a little cold but the days seem like
May at home; to day is one of the most beautiful
days I ever saw. all looks pleasant. I wish you could be
in the sunny clime a while I know you would like the country
but I must close hoping that this will find you in good health
My love to all the folks I hope to see you in about 8 months
Your Brother John L. Hardin Orderly Co. 23rd Ind Regt.

you will have to pay the postage on this letter

Camp Morton Aug³¹st 1863
John Hardin Esq.

Dear father with pleasure I seat myself to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and as well satisfied as could be expected. altho I do not like the idea of staying so close to home doing nothing and can't get to stay at home.

From all accounts we will be here for two months I see the Commissioners have met to make arrangements to exchange prisoners (Parole) but have disagreed on some point and have adjourned their meeting till some future time our Commissioner has come back to report to Lincoln President I think the difficulty existing between the two parties is the South does not want to recognize the Prisoners that Gen Grant Paroled at Vicksburg they say that there was a secret made by the old Cartel that all Prisoners should be delivered up at Richmond. I will admit that to be so, but Gen Davis surely has forgotten that Comin^g Generals if they choose can both exchange and pull in the battle field which was agreed to between Pemberton and Grant. (but enough of this)

We have plenty soldiers here at this time there is several Regiments of six month troops they are camp for instructions they are drilling & know a day the same as we did when we first went out. Hales from Salem is Col of the 117 Regt John Peter from Hardsburg is 2nd Lieut in one company.

I have been reading a speech of Governor Tod of Ohio I have carefully read and studied it I find it to be all right and for fear you will not get to see it I will send it to you I want you to lay aside all Politics and read it carefully I think you will say it is the best you have read (he disavows the power of prejudice to suit me) (also the party with the States name) He has tells you who Vallandigham is and what party he has ever belonged to. I wish you to observe closely the

characteristics of Democracy read it closely) is Secession
to be tolerated) I want you to study it well as that is
the subject we talked on when I was at home I
think my views were as good as Geo. Fells and this
is very good I think all Democrats should endorse his
policy and I believe they will before one year. I want
you to go to thinking and see if you have not got a little
off of the track now you know you have always been a
Democrat and I would hate for you to leave it now
and take up the Valandha doctrine or the old whig
doctrine I guess I have said enough for this time
so I will close (tell Meandy to Read this speech)
I will close

I remain your son John L. Hardin

Camp 4 miles above Seale Providence March 26th

John Martin

Dear father as I have not written to you for several days I thought I would write to you this day. I wrote a letter to you the other day also one to John W. Hoar and by mistake I directed them both to him I suppose you will get it. My health is indeed very good notwithstanding the warm weather it is very warm and getting warmer every day. The trees are starting forth their buds the grass is growing fine it is as warm here as it is in summer up home. We have moved our camp from Seale Providence up the river 4 miles I did not like to move from such a nice camping ground we had good water in the lake but here the water is very bad we did holes and sunk barrels in the ground by so doing we have plenty water but not good. The camp position is we will not stay here very long.

I have no news to write more than yesterday all is quiet at Vicksburg some think they are evacuating the place but that is all in the eye I don't believe the half of it. if ever we get Vicksburg we will have to fight for it.

I rec'd a letter from Isaac the other day he says he has another boy and its name is John his wife may have but I don't believe he has got a boy.

I sent \$50 dollars home by our chaplain and have not heard from it I sent it to him and told him to let you have some of it if you wanted it.

Well I suppose all will have to prepare to go in to the service as the conscription law has passed I would like to see some few have to go in the

desire of their country but there are those that
I would like to see ^{and see} should a month and carry
it about two years. I recd a letter from
John Ruberson on West river he said he wanted
no to fight hard and put the rebellion down
so they would not have to go, as much as to
say he did not care how many of us were killed
so he did not have to go. I contend that he is
an unprincipled man and cares nothing
for any body but his self.

I have never heard from Major Osavens
by ~~has forgotten me~~ I get a letter from
John Peter of hardinsburg he writes a good
letter, he is a union man but don't like the
proclamation and the way in which the
war is carried on.

Well as I have no news to write I will close
hoping to hear from you soon

Yours Son
John A. Cardin

Vicksburg Mississippi Oct 11th 1863
Mr John & Lucy A. Hardin
Leivonia Indiana

My dear parents it is with much pleasure that I am seated to write to you I am enjoying the best of health although I was not well when I first arrived at Vicksburg I had symptoms of chills & fever I supposed it was caused by change of climate. I am very hearty at present I can eat all the rations that is allowed me. but that is not very much at the present time. the water is very low and we cant get rations down the River, by that means we are a little short of grub: but we wont starve.

We have just rec'd marching orders to be gone ten days we have orders to start in the morning 12th with ten days rations. I dont know where we are going to but the general supposition is that we will go in the direction of Jackson or Clinton Miss and how we are to be gone ten days. I suppose there are some rebels in and about Jackson and we want to whip them out. they come as near to our lines as they dare to they then get women to come in our lines and take the oath and then by grub or provisions and take them out to the rebels. we dont like to let them have our rations when we dont get enough ourselves. so we will go out

and make them shadable. I don't think there is much of a force in this part of the State. The citizens are very good all at once. They are nearly starved out and come to us both for grub and protection. Some of them say our army treat them much better than their own army. We see People who were worth thousands of dollars before the war commenced and now they are not worth five cts. they say their army took all they had and are left to beg their way. but enough on this subject.

General U. S. Grant left last evening for the army of the Cumberland to assist Genl Rosecrants. the report is here that Rosey is in a close place. but our news is so old when we get it that we never know anything about it.

I wrote to you that I heard that Ballard was killed in the last battle. I have not heard any of the particulars. but as the paper stated it so correctly I am of the opinion that Bal was killed. Poor fellow to be so far from home and away from friends to be left in the south and may his body not put away but left unburied uncare for and may left in the hands of the rebels. Oh what a solemn thought to think about it. but who knows who will be next to fall in the battlefield. I pray the good Lord will spare me so that I may return to the bosom of my dear Parents and friends. how I wish this war would close but I want it to close honorably let it close when it may. don't I wish I could see the man that killed Ball that is if he was killed I would shoot him in a thousand peices. I wish every traitor

was tossed out in the middle of the ocean then
the war would maby cease.

We have not yet been paid off and no talk of it. they
may pay us when we come in off the march. I will
send you a few dollars when we get our money
if it is only a little it will do you some good
I want to send as much money to Isaac as I
can possible send but I will send you a few
dollars. I have not heard from Isaac since I was
there but suppose he is getting along all right.

How is the political question going
is the election over and who were candidates. I
suppose A. Cutshaw was elected. is exars
making any speeches and what is his policy
is he for presecution the war. if you have any good
speeches please send me one. that is if it is a union
speech I like Gov Tod of Ohio he advocates the right
doctrine. I heard Sam Hentchison said I was
not a union man Henry Martin told me he said
so I would like to hear him say so when I was
about I would mark his mouth for talking about
a soldier he is a liar and a coward. I want you
to tell him I said so and that I will mark his mug
when I come home.

I dont know what I am to do I am between two
fires. the democrats censure me and say I am an
abolitionist. becaus I am for the presecution of the
war let it east what it may and because I am

in favor of using the negro to the best advantage
he can be used if they will fight let them do it.
I will not grieve a bit if a negro gets killed
instead of me. so push them in.

Again the Republicans are down on me and say
I am a secesh (why) because I say I am still
a democrat. now I will tell you what will make
them satisfied. (both Parties) draft every man
between eighteen and forty five and let them
serve two years in the service of their country
and go through with what I have. then they will
quit talking about soldiers.

How did the fair go off and who was there give
me a full history of it.

Tell Ben and Andy that I love them and would like to see
them. Tell Bano children that I love them to and that
I will be at home in about nine months that will
soon roll round the 12th day of July next our
time will be up. I hope that I may live to see the
time and meet all my dear friends again. Tell
gram Ma I am well and that I have not forgotten
her. I will now close as this is Sunday night
and this is the 2nd letter I have written you may guess
what the other is to. You will no doubt think I
am trying myself on this letter. but nothing un-
-common. I will close hoping to hear from you
soon my respects to all inquiring friends.

John L. Hardin

Camp of the 23rd Ind Regt. Inf. Vol.
Vicksburg Miss. Oct. 22nd 1863

Miss A. M. Hardin
Levinia Ind.

Dear Sister (Man again I am
permitted to write to you again. we have returned from
a seven days march. (I wrote to you the day before we
started sent it by Dr. J. S. (Mr. Pheters) we had a very
hard and fatiguing march we was ten miles beyond
Clinton Mississippi twenty miles N. E. of Jackson making
Sixty miles we marched. we fought the enemy three
days all Skirmish fighting no regular engagement
the enemy was about three thousand strong stationed
on three different roads to prevent our advancing but
we routed them out every where we only had one
Regt. engaged at a time took it by relief. our Regt.
went in to the fight on the morning of the 18th and
Skirmished all day the result was we drove the rebs
six miles without losing a man killed but some
wounded; our loss during the three days was about
fifteen killed and and a few wounded.

The weather was very warm and dry. we suffered great
deal for water. had to get water out of mud holes
in the road and in fact was glad to get water
any where we could find it. I often thought
of our well at home and thought I would like
a drink out of it but all impossible.

113 & Co's
ADE CIGAR

I promised to write you this time
have not heard from home since I have been
here am getting anxious to hear from you and
to hear the news: I have not heard any thing
definite as to Poorbal being killed in the late
fight between Rooscrans and Bragg. I do wish
I could hear from you so you could tell me
all about it. I do sincerely hope it is all a mistake
about him being killed. If it is so I know your
mother will never get over it. Oh what an awful
thing war is; how many of our good boys are to
be killed. I wish I was at home a few days
to be with you, but no use to wish. I will not be
there till my time expires that wont be very long
only about nine months, that will soon pass
away I will then return to the bosom of my dear
friends there to remain, be patient a few months
and I will be with you.

I see an account of the election returns think
Valandigham is badly beaten he is played out
him and his principals. Mandy I dont want to
ever hear of you saying any thing in behalf
of such a man but I dont think and say it
is a disgrace to advocate his doctrine, he is a
disgrace to the democratic party, he is not a democrat
nor never was one, I want you to let all
Politics alone and be a lady and stay in a ladies
place never suffer yourself to get in arguments with

on Politics with any person. I dont care how
much you discuss the question of matrimony
I guess you do your part of that from what I
can hear. I understand Frank was out time of
the fair Eli Stephenson said you had a bean
and he was from New Albany I supposed it was
sid^y Frank. well did you have a good time at
the fair? I understand it was a very poor concern

We have not been payed off yet but
some talk that we will get our money in a
week or two I will send Pa a few dollars to
help him out. I want to send as much to
Isaac as I can. so as to start our grocery store
I have not heard from him since I have been
here. I will bring my letter to a close now.
I want either have you seen my Mary since I
was at home if you see her kiss her for me
I am very well getting fat again I
want you to write often give my love to all
the family and Bens folks

Ever your Brother

John S Hardin C.S.
Leg & 23rd Ind Regt

Camp Chase

Columbus Ohio June 28th 1863

John G. July 1st 1863

Dear father and mother again
I seat myself to write you a few lines to let
you know that I am well. I recd your and
Maudie's letter while at Annapolis Maryland
but knowing that I was coming here I did
not answer it at the time. I was truly glad
to hear from you and to hear that you were
well I believe Mandy stated she was not very
well I guess she is not very bad.

I have no news to write, more than you know
as you get the papers as often as I do.

I saw in the paper that the rebels had made a
raid in Indiana in Orange County and run
the home guards at Orleans I hope they did
not get far in the state I see where some of
them were killed and some taken Prisoners.
The Rebels are in Pa, robbing and stealing every
thing they come to they are advancing on Pittsburg
in strong force but they will get badly whipped if
they attack that point. I was there (at Pittsburg)
they are preparing to receive them and will give them
a hearty reception. The ladies of the city are giving

all the assistance they can and say they will
take the Pick and Spade and go on the works
if necessary. I think they are the best women
in the World they the Ladies gave 800 of us our
dinner and asked me to not hard crackers
but the best they had. I dont say but what
the Ladies of Indiana would do the same.
well I will leave this subject.

I would like to come home but I dont know.
That I will get to come, I will have to come
without leave if I come and that I dont want
to do, if we dont get paid in a few days I will
have to have some money. I will write again.

For you write a letter to Governor Foster and
tell him that you want me to come home
to help you with your harvest you may
can get me away from here tell him that
your health is not good and that I want your
only help and that I have been faithfully
discharging my duty in the service of my
country for two years. You can let
A. J. Barber or Milton James to address him
if you do it do it quick write from Salem
and dont say any thing about it to any one
not even the folks at home. write soon as you
can Direct to Cambridge Ohio 1st Regt Pa. Volunteers.

your Son John J. Curdin

Camp of the 2nd Ind. Vol
Logansport Tenn Nov 12th 62

John Hardin Esqr
Livonia Indiana }

Dear father again I am permitted to write you a few lines, I am well which no doubt you will be glad to learn. we have left Belvoir and are at Logansport Tenn we left Belvoir on the 3rd day of this month we was two days marching to our present station 30 miles distance. I dont think we will stay here very long we are under marching orders now for some point (not known), but supposed to Holly Spring the rebels have evacuated that place and retreat Holly Hatcher River Miss they will in all probability make a stand there if not at Sackson Miss. they will have to do something soon as our forces are now determined to do something they have been laying idle long enough. Gen Grant is making a good General his maneuvers are great. I see Gen McClelland is removed Gen Burnside takes command. that ~~that~~ bad move and will prove such. Well when you see Major Cravens tell him I am not caring a cent whether he write to me or not just as he chooses. I suppose he is elected by a large majority. I have rec^d letters saying that he is not right on the union question but I will believe as much of that as I please. he may differ from some of them Northern Abolitionist and still be a better union man than they are. (well enough of the Major) I will send this letter by Alfred Hitchcock who is discharged from our company. he has served his country now 16 months and has lost his health he will now return to his home to enjoy the comforts of a home life. you may tell Mandy that Richard is well and looks well. We have not rec^d any money yet but think.

we will soon I have six months due me now
Some say we will not get any money untill
Congress meets again the has to be a proposition
made first by Congress. I will try and send a
Sword to Edward if they can get it through
Give my respects to all

I will close hoping to hear from you soon
Ever your Son John J. Harding

To

Mrs and Mr. Harding

N. B it is very seldom we ever get any thing
to drink in this wooden county but Capt. Clark
has just come in with a can marked fresh peaches
but it happened to be good whiskey he told me
to tell you that it was with a good heart that
he asked me to drink with him well I did take a good
drink with him. Old Clark thinks a good deal of
John Harding as he calls me I expect we will
trade over boats we have both get new one.

I will close

John J. Harding

if I send that sword tell Edward to rub the
rust off of it with dry ashes

Camp in the woods two miles $\frac{1}{2}$
from Crump's Landing Tenn River March 30th 61.
Miss Amanda M. Hardin
Livonia Indiana

Dear sister I received your letter
to day it being the 30th March. I also rec'd a letter from
father this week. I was glad to hear from you all
I can say that I am in good health though I
have not been well for the last week or two.

We have moved two miles from the
River I am well pleased with the camp much
better than the one we left: the water we drank was
nothing but River water here we have the best
of water nice springs of running water

you stated that you was staying at Major
Cravens I would like to be there I know we would
have a glorious time don't you think so? give
my respects to Mrs Cravens and all the children
also Asbery I would love to see them while I am
writing I will tell you what I got in a letter
from Miss Mary (though before I tell you you must
tell Mrs. Cravens not to get jealous) I will tell
you the Major has been writing to Miss Mary
she said the Major had been sending her
some seeds. I guess he only sent them on my
account what do you think?

I rec'd one of the best letters from Miss Mary
I ever rec'd from any body well you know
she can put up such letters as that. Mandy you
said you had last written a letter to Richard I

have not rec'd a letter from him since I we left
Paducah I suppose he is at Evansville Ind
I wish I could get a letter from him I have
rec'd several letters from Miss Mary since I left.
that is all the way I can hear from him.

Mandy you can tell Miss Trotter that I will
forgive her that is if she will write to me you can
tell her I did not believe what she said although it
was a hard wish. I told her she would be sorry of
that if I should get shot but then I am not
a going to get killed I dont think that is my
lot. You did not tell me anything about the
girls in Hardinsburg I would like to hear from
them I have not heard from them for some time
I rec'd a letter from Miss Sallie E. Schwarts the
other week she told me all the news but did
not say anything about the girls.

As I am not interesting you I will close
Capt Clarks send his respect to you he says
he is a married man but he will send his
respects to you anyhow. Let S. P. Berry is
a single man he sends his respects to you I
told him I would like to be connective of his
I also told him I would make it all right
with you well I will close hoping
to hear from you soon

John M. Hardin
Direct your letter to Cairo Ill to the 29 Regt
Ind Vol ~~we~~ will stay here but few days
we will move on to Corinth Alabama where ^{we} will
have a fight



